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SOURCE Vneshnyaya Torgovlya.

ECONOMIC ACHIEVEMENTS IN BULGARIA,
FIRST HALF OF 1951

In 1950, the capital invested in the Bulgarian economy amounted to 70 billion leva. This was 14 percent more than the sum invested in 1949. The amount set for 1951 is 78.3 billion leva. The capital investment during the Five-Year Plan (1949 - 1953) is to total 425 billion leva.

There were 1.6 times as many construction jobs completed in the first 6 months of this year as in the same period of the previous year. The total volume of industrial production in 1950 was almost three times greater than in 1939. Last year, more electric power was produced than in the 5 years preceding the war.

The total volume of industrial production in 1951 will be four times greater than in 1939. The total volume of industrial production (excluding local industry) during the first half of 1951 increased 19.3 percent as compared with the first half of 1950.

The Bulgarian [coal] miners fulfilled their 1951 half-year plan 101.2 percent. They produced tens of thousands of tons of coal in excess of the plan.

The [ore] mining industry exceeded its [half-year] plan more than 15 percent. The semiannual plan for the chemical industry, one of the leading branches of the national economy, was fulfilled 102.7 percent. Nineteen chemical enterprises fulfilled their quotas ahead of schedule. The textile industry fulfilled its plan for the first half of 1951 by 103 percent, producing hundreds of thousands of meters of fine-quality cloth in excess of the plan.

As a result of socialist competition and the development of the rationalizers and innovators movement, labor productivity in 1950 increased 16 percent above the previous year and should increase an additional 13.5 percent in 1951. In honor of the seventh anniversary of the People's Democracy, more than 75 percent of all workers took part in socialist competitions.

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At present, the following products are being produced in Bulgaria: lathes, planers, grinding machines, trolley buses, compressors, gas generators, transformers, high-powered electric motors, automatic telephone exchanges, huge concrete mixers, stone crushers, radio amplifiers, X-ray apparatus, tractor sowers and cultivators, swing saws, eternite water pipes, and sulfuric acid.

At present, more than half the privately owned farms in the land have joined production cooperatives /sic/. In 1949, the harvest in TKZS (farm workers' cooperatives) was 15-20 percent greater than it was for the individual farmers; in 1950, it was on the average of 20-30 percent greater for basic crops. In the progressive production cooperatives, it was even greater. In the current year, the quota for the TKZS in supplying grain to the state is 60 percent, while in 1950, it was only 20 percent.

In 1951, Bulgaria has 115 MTS (machine tractor stations). A total of 550 Soviet combines and thousands of tractors, tractor plows, cultivators, sowers, harvesters, binders, and other agricultural machines are operating on Bulgarian fields. In 1951, the capital invested in the MTS has increased 5.5 times over 1950.

In 1950, state farms gave the state 2.5 times as much grain as in 1949. This year, 170,000 hectares will be irrigated in Bulgaria. At the end of the Five-Year Plan, 400,000 hectares will be irrigated.

As a result of the growth of national income, the state budget is increasing, with revenues exceeding expenditures. The chief sources of income are as follows: turnover tax, deductions from profits, and incomes for MTS. The tax has been turned into a weapon for limiting and squeezing capitalist elements out of city and country. Taxes gathered from workers in 1950 were decreased considerably by the income tax law. The tax policy was directed at supporting the production cooperatives in the country. TKZS will not have to pay taxes for several years. The incomes of members of TKZS, received for working days (except for land rents), are not taxed. The incomes from personal plots of farm workers, which remain for personal use under the statute of the TKZS, are taxed 25 percent less than the incomes from plots belonging to individual farmers. On the expenditure side of the state budget, the funds apportioned for financing the national economy and for social and cultural measures are being steadily increased. In 1951, these expenditures are almost 35 percent more than they were in 1950 and comprise about three fourths of all the budget expenditures.

In February 1951, Bulgaria completed the reorganization of the bank and credit system, with the aim of converting it into a weapon for strengthening the economy and mobilizing additional means for socialist construction. The Bulgarian National Bank has become the sole institute of short-term lending for the national economy and the sole disbursement center in the country. Intercommercial credit between enterprises is forbidden. Short-term credits are given for terms up to a year for definite purposes and are subject to repayment within the established period of time. Credits will be issued only if backed by commodity and material securities.

Bulgarian foreign trade is handled by state organizations (central offices) which have a monopoly on the foreign market. The foreign trade monopoly is used for the planned coordination of Bulgarian economy with that of the USSR and the other People's Democracies. It permits the foreign trade commodity turnover to be coordinated with the national economic plan and puts the interests of increasing the material and cultural level of the workers above foreign economic ties. The state monopoly on foreign trade makes Bulgaria independent of capitalist nations.

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Bulgarian imports in 1948 included 37.5 percent machines and equipment, 37.9 percent raw materials and semimanufactured goods, and 24.6 percent consumers' goods. At the close of the Five-Year Plan, the imports of machinery and equipment, in terms of value, should increase more than three times /as compared with 1948/, and comprise more than half the total import of the country. While in 1948 the quota of industrial crops comprised 75.6 percent of the value of the total export, it will fall to 34.6 percent in 1953. At the same time, the export of food, ore, and lumber will increase.

The agreement on trade turnover and payments between the USSR and Bulgaria in 1947, determining the kind and amount of goods to be exchanged in 1947 and 1948, was tied up with the Two-Year Plan for the development of the national economy of the country. On the basis of this agreement between Bulgaria and the USSR, protocols on the exchange of goods, determining the kind and amount of trade turnover between the two countries, have been signed annually. Bulgaria imports from the USSR petroleum products, fertilizers, ferrous and non-ferrous metals, semi-finished metal goods, transportation equipment, various machines, and cotton. Bulgaria exports to the USSR tobacco, ores and concentrates of nonferrous metals, as well as fruit and berry pulps.

The USSR is also supplying Bulgaria on credit with industrial equipment. According to the agreement of 23 August 1947, the USSR supplies Bulgaria on credit with equipment for fertilizer plants, electric power stations, and plants for semicoking of coal. The USSR also gives Bulgaria technical aid in building these enterprises.

Bulgaria exports to the other People's Democracies tobacco, ores and concentrates of nonferrous metals, hides, livestock products, grapes, fruit and berry pulps, and wine. In exchange, Bulgaria imports the following products from Czechoslovakia: construction equipment, metalworking machine tools, mining and transportation equipment, electrical equipment, textile goods, ceramics, as well as products from the chemical, tanning, and paper industry; from Poland: locomotives, railroad cars, sheet iron, zinc, machine tools, metal products, textile goods, chemical products, as well as raw materials; from Hungary: industrial equipment, chemical products, and metals; and from Rumania: petroleum products and chemicals. In 1950, Bulgarian-Polish trade turnover increased 64 percent as compared with 1946.

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